

## ***2008 Probation Employee Recognition Awards Most Frequently Asked Questions***

1. Is the Probation Employee Recognition Awards Ceremony the same thing as the Trial Court Excellence Awards?

**Answer:** NO. The Probation Employee Recognition Awards are given to Probation employees only.

2. How long has the Probation Employee Recognition Awards Ceremony been taking place and who thought of it?

**Answer:** The ceremony has been held in the The Great Hall of the State House for the past six years. The idea for a Recognition Awards Ceremony was introduced by the Media Relations Committee, a group of 10-12 Chief Probation Officers who meet regularly to devise ways to educate the general public about the role of the Massachusetts Probation Service. Probation Commissioner John J. O'Brien Jr. embraced the idea of honoring Probation employees whose work in the courts is exemplary.

3. I am a Trial Court employee and not a Probation employee, may I still nominate someone for the award?

**Answer:** Yes. Any Massachusetts Trial Court employee can nominate a Probation Employee for the Probation Recognition Award.

4. I am a Chief Probation Officer who has nominated an employee who received the award in the past. May I still nominate someone from my court?

**Answer:** Yes, you can nominate an employee from your court. However, you may not nominate a past honoree.

5. I am a Chief Probation Officer who nominated a person who was not chosen. Can I resubmit the person's information from last year?

**Answer:** Yes.

6. I am a Chief Probation Officer and I would like to nominate more than one employee from my department. How many can I nominate?

**Answer:** If you have a staff of 20 or more, you may nominate up to two employees in each of the award categories: Assistant Chief Probation Officer, Probation Officer, Associate Probation Officer, and Support Staff.

7. Can anyone attend the Probation Employee Recognition Ceremony?

**Answer:** You must be an invited guest of an honoree or the Office of the Commissioner of Probation. All guests must confirm attendance (RSVP) with the Communications Department in the Office of the Commissioner of Probation.

8. Who chooses the honorees?

**Answer:** Members of the Probation Recognition Awards Selection Committee which is comprised of four Chief Probation Officers, who are also members of the Media Relations Committee, and one Regional Administrator.